

NBC BRIEFING

17 October 1957

SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY APPEAL TO WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

I. The appeal which the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party addressed to Socialist parties in eight West European NATO countries last week-end (published by TASS on 15 October) was an attempt to convert Soviet charges of American and Turkish plans to attack Syria into a major international issue. Moscow is trying to put the US and Turkey on the defensive and place itself in a position to take credit among the Arab states and neutralists for any relaxation in Middle East tension.

II. The messages:

- A. Underlined continuing strong Soviet support of the Syrian-Egyptian axis;**
- B. Encouraged Socialists in NATO countries to bring pressure on their governments to block alleged American and Turkish plans regarding Syria;**
- C. Tried to generate suspicion of US aims in the Middle East and divide the US from its European NATO allies;**
- D. Attempted to lay the groundwork for a revival of the pre-Hungary Soviet efforts to establish closer relations with non-bloc Socialist parties and encourage their cooperation with local Communists.**

III. The Soviet Communist party messages were addressed to Socialist parties in Britain, France, West Germany, Italy (Nenni Socialists), Norway, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands.

- A. The only complete text made public thus far is the message to the British Labor Party. It pointedly reminded the Laborites that Britain, by the operation of its NATO obligations, might be drawn into a "military adventure by the US and Turkey."**
- B. Gaitskell's initial reaction is that letters are obvious propaganda effort to disrupt Western alliance.**